

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

106th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 21

February 23, 1999, 5:30 p.m.
Page S-1769 Temp. Record

MILITARY PAY & RETIREMENT/TRICARE Reforms

SUBJECT: Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's, and Marines' Bill of Rights Act of 1999 . . . S. 4. Hutchison amendment No. 18.

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 100-0

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 4, the Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's, and Marines' Bill of Rights Act of 1999: will authorize a 4.8-percent military pay raise, effective January 1, 2000; will reform the military pay tables; will revise the military retirement system; will authorize active duty military personnel to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan; will revise benefits under the Montgomery G.I. Bill; will authorize a special subsistence allowance for enlisted military personnel who demonstrate eligibility for food stamps; and will require an annual report on the impact of these changes on recruitment and retention.

The Hutchison amendment would reform the TRICARE military health care program. It would make the following changes:

- to the maximum extent practicable, TRICARE benefits would be given that were substantially similar to health care benefits offered under the Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) program;
- TRICARE beneficiaries could receive benefits at facilities that provide TRICARE benefits in any region of the program;
- authorization or certification requirements that are imposed as a condition of access to TRICARE benefits would be minimized and claims processing would be streamlined;
- the Defense Department would be authorized to increase reimbursement rates where necessary in order to ensure that a given area had enough health care providers participating in the TRICARE program; and
- military health care facilities would be permitted to collect from a third-party payer at Medicare rates.

The effective date of the amendment would be 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act. A report would be prepared within 6 months of the date of enactment of this Act of the expected effects that the implementation of this amendment would have.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

(See other side)

YEAS (100)			NAYS (0)		NOT VOTING (0)	
Republican (55 or 100%)	Democrats (45 or 100%)		Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Hutchinson	Akaka	Kennedy			
Allard	Hutchison	Baucus	Kerrey			
Ashcroft	Inhofe	Bayh	Kerry			
Bennett	Jeffords	Biden	Kohl			
Bond	Kyl	Bingaman	Landrieu			
Brownback	Lott	Boxer	Lautenberg			
Bunning	Lugar	Breaux	Leahy			
Burns	Mack	Bryan	Levin			
Campbell	McCain	Byrd	Lieberman			
Chafee	McConnell	Cleland	Lincoln			
Cochran	Murkowski	Conrad	Mikulski			
Collins	Nickles	Daschle	Moynihan			
Coverdell	Roberts	Dodd	Murray			
Craig	Roth	Dorgan	Reed			
Crapo	Santorum	Durbin	Reid			
DeWine	Sessions	Edwards	Robb			
Domenici	Shelby	Feingold	Rockefeller			
Enzi	Smith, Bob	Feinstein	Sarbanes			
Fitzgerald	Smith, Gordon	Graham	Schumer			
Frist	Snowe	Harkin	Torricelli			
Gorton	Specter	Hollings	Wellstone			
Gramm	Stevens	Inouye	Wyden			
Grams	Thomas	Johnson				
Grassley	Thompson					
Gregg	Thurmond					
Hagel	Voinovich					
Hatch	Warner					
Helms						

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

Compiled and written by the staff of the Republican Policy Committee—Larry E. Craig, Chairman

Military recruitment rates are at their lowest level since 1979, and skilled personnel are declining to reenlist at record-high rates. The bill before us addresses two of the main reasons for dissatisfaction with military service--low pay and poor retirement benefits. The Hutchison amendment would address a third main reason for dissatisfaction--inadequate health care benefits. Times have changed in the Armed Forces. Most personnel are married now, and getting health care for their families is a top priority. The current TRICARE system, which serves 6 million people, has huge administrative problems. Fixing those problems will lead to great savings